

**Telephone Adalats**

\*804. SHRI. PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a). whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has been holding Telephone Adalats regularly;

(b). if so, the details thereof;

(c). whether any time limit has been fixed to deal with the grievances of subscribers after these are brought before these Adalats;

(d). if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e). whether cases dealt with in these Adalats are well publicised through press to encourage large Participation by subscribers; and

(f). if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI. RAJESH PILOTA): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. So far 16 and 12 Telephone Adalats have been held since 1987 by Delhi and Bombay units respectively.

(c) and (d). Most of the cases are settled on or before the Adalat day. Cases requiring additional investigations are settled subsequently after due investigations. In rare cases of excess billing complaints where very detailed and vigilance enquiries are required, the case settlement may take more time.

(e) and (f): Before holding each Adalat wide publicity is given through leading Dailies notifying about the Telephone Adalat.

Again after holding each Adalat Press Release is issued in all leading Dailies giving information about the number of cases dealt with.

**Insurgency in North-East Region**

\*805. SHRI. RABI RAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a). whether the activities of various insurgent groups are increasing in the North-Eastern Region of the country;

(b). if so, the details thereof, and

(c). the steps taken by the Government to check insurgency effectively in this part of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI. S.B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c): In the States of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland there has been an increase in violent activities, such as ambushes, killings, kidnappings, extortion of money, intimidation etc., on the part of insurgent groups.

The steps taken to check insurgency include, among others, the following:-

1. The Meitei extremist organisation, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland and the United Liberation Front of Assam have been declared unlawful under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

2. Under the Armed forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, the following areas have been declared as 'disturbed areas'.

(i) Whole of Assam and Manipur.

(ii) 5 km. belt in Nagaland and Tripura and Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh along Burma border.

3. The State Governments have been

advised to take action to control the activities of the insurgent groups and have been given all feasible help by the Central Government in this regard.

### **Waste and Fallow Lands**

\* 806. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN:  
SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate area of waste and fallow lands in the country;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring these lands under cultivation in order to increase the agricultural production;

(c) whether the Government propose to give these lands to the landless poor and weaker sections of the society on lease basis for cultivation purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The estimated area of wastelands in the country is about 129.58 million ha.; the extent of fallows, including current fallows is about 29.6 million ha.

(b) to (d): The assignment of Government was the lands for cultivation and other purposes falls under the purview of the State Governments and/subject to policies and guidelines laid down by them for this purpose. So far about 4.17 million ha. of Government wastelands in the country have been distributed to the landless rural poor, weaker sections of the society and ex-servicemen.

For the development of waste and fallow lands with assignees of ceiling surplus

land and SC/ST beneficiaries to whom their alienated lands has been restored, the Central Government provides assistance.

Improvement of the productivity of degraded lands is one of the thrusts in the following schemes and projects in operation:-

(i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects;

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers;

(iii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas;

(iv) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Reclamation of Alkali Soils in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana;

(v) EEC assisted projects of Reclamation of ravenous areas in Uttar Pradesh and Integrated watershed management in Gujarat;

(vi) Desert development Programme; and

(vii) Soil Conservation and watershed Management programmes under State sector.

### **Telephone Facility to Gram Panchayats**

\*807. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN:  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gram panchayats in the country, which are already linked with telephones, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the year-wise programme for provid-